

Message Text

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53

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-13 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCEM-02 RSR-01 /082 W

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P R 061338Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3184

INFO AEC/GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 6486

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, ESTC, MX

SUBJ: IAEA/MEXICO NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT AGREEMENT

1. MEXICANS HAVE FORMALLY REQUESTED AGENCY'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENABLING U.S. EXPORT OF POWER REACTOR TO MEXICO. UNDERSTAND GE APPARENTLY INFORMED MEXICANS THAT AGREEMENT WITH IAEA IS NECESSARY TO PERMIT EXPORT OF REACTOR AND ITS COMPONENTS. MEXICANS ASCRIBE SOME URGENCY TO MATTER AND HOPE FOR ACTION ON AGREEMENT AT SEPTEMBER SESSION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

2. AGENCY CONSIDERING REQUEST ON URGENT BASIS AND WE UNDERSTAND PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT USUAL PROJECT AGREEMENT WOULD LIKELY SATISFY U.S. EXPORT REQUIREMENTS, ALTHOUGH THIS CASE WOULD BE SOMEWHAT UNIQUE IN THAT PROJECT AGREEMENT WOULD OMIT SPECIFIC PROVISIONS COVERING TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR FUEL, SINCE THERE ARE SEVERAL STEPS THAT NEED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE AGENCY CAN ARRANGE FOR TRANSFER OF U.S.-ORIGIN FUEL FOR POWER REACTOR UNDER STANDARD U.S. TERMS AND CONDITIONS, E.G., AMENDMENT OF U.S./IAEA BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION, AMENDMENT OF U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY ACT, AND DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE U.S./IAEA/MEXICO SUPPLY AGREEMENT. AGENCY BELIVES APPROPRIATE PROJECT AGREEMENT TEXT FOR TRANSFER OF ONLY POWER REACTOR AND COMPONENTS COULD BE DRAFTED IN TIME FOR SEPTEMBER BOARD, BUT NOTES THAT, EVEN IF AGREEMENT ON TEXT CAN BE REACHED PROMPTLY WITH MEXICANS, IN ORDER THAT BG DOCUMENT MAY BE ISSUED IN SUFFICIENT TIME BEFORE BG SESSION ON

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SEPT 17 (NORMALLY THREE WEEKS BEFORE), IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER

NECESSARY HEALTH AND SAFETY REVIEWS BY AGENCY, TO SATISFY ARTICLE XI OF AGENCY STATUTE, CAN BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR SEPTEMBER BG ACTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AGENCY IS IN TOUCH WITH MEXICAN RESREP ON MATTER AND IS ASKING FOR RELEVANT HEALTH AND SAFETY INFO TO BE PROVIDED ASAP.

3. AGENCY HAS INQUIRED FROM MISSION WHETHER TIMING OF ISSUANCE OF U.S. EXPORT LICENSE TO GE IS SUCH THAT ACTION BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON PROJECT AGREEMENT IS ESSENTIAL AT SEPTEMBER SESSION. IF AFFIRMATIVE, AGENCY FEELS IT MUST PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION FOR URGENT ACTION IN BG PAPER.

4. ADVISE SOONEST.LABOWITZ

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